Type of Presentation: Educational-Outreach, International Conference, Oral
Title: The University of Alberta High Altitude Balloons Program
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Abstract/Summary: The University of Alberta High Altitude Balloon Program (UA-HAB) is a one and half year program sponsored by the Canadian Space Agency (CSA) that offers hands on experience to recruit graduates and undergraduates students into careers in space science, and train them in all aspects of a space mission. In particular, the program has facilitated several weather balloon missions, which provides education opportunities for university students and staff, as well as provided outreach opportunities among junior and senior high school students. Weather balloon missions provide a cheap and quick alternative to suborbital missions; they can be used to test components for more expensive missions, as well as to host student based projects from different disciplines such as Earth and Atmospheric Sciences (EAS), Physics, and Engineering to name a few. Budget and materials needed, training, procedures, timelines and outcomes of this program will be presented in detail. Guidelines on how to develop and maintain a weather balloon program at any educational institution will be provided as well. This project is undertaken with the financial support of the Canadian Space Agency.
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